

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 135043  
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 OMB-01  
ACDA-12 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 HA-05  
EUR-12 ARA-14 EB-08 AID-05 IO-14 /121 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:DKEOGH  
APPROVED BY AF/S:DPETTERSON  
-----129963 262119Z /72

O P 262040Z MAY 78 ZFF4  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA NIACT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA NIACT IMMEDIATE  
INFO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 135043

FOR AMBASSADOR MCHENRY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV, XA, US

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT ON US POLICY IN AFRICA

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S OPENING  
STATEMENT AT MAY 25 PRESS CONFERENCE IN CHICAGO:

2. OUR ACTION TO HELP RESCUE THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN THREATENED  
IN ZAIRE HAS VIRTUALLY COME TO AN END. OUR TRANSPORT  
AIRCRAFT, HAVING COMPLETED THEIR MISSION, WILL BE RETURNING  
TO THEIR BASES WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

I KNOW THAT I SPEAK FOR ALL AMERICANS IN EXPRESSING  
MY ABHORRENCE AND DISTRESS OVER THE VIOLENCE AND THE  
KILLING THAT RESULTED FROM THE KATANGAN INVASION FROM  
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ANGOLA INTO ZAIRE. AS GREAT AS THE HUMAN TRAGEDY WAS, IT  
COULD HAVE BEEN MUCH WORSE FOR THE EUROPEAN NATIONALS AND  
FOR THE ZAIRIANS AND THE CONSEQUENCES MUCH MORE SEVERE FOR  
THAT COUNTRY IF WE HAD NOT JOINED IN WITH OUR ALLIES IN A  
COMMON EFFORT.

3. STRICT LIMITS ON INVOLVEMENT

OUR ACTION IN ZAIRE WAS AN APPROPRIATE AND MEASURED RESPONSE TO THE SITUATION. IN THIS ENDEAVOR WE DEMONSTRATED

BOTH OUR ABILITY TO COOPERATE WITH OUR ALLIES AND OUR WILLINGNESS TO CONSULT FULLY WITH THE CONGRESS BEFORE TAKING ANY ACTIONS. I IMPOSED STRICT LIMITS ON THE SCOPE OF OUR INVOLVEMENT, AND THEY WERE RIGOROUSLY OBSERVED.

I'M GRATIFIED THAT WE HAD THE FULL SUPPORT OF CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS BEFORE AND DURING THE RESCUE EFFORTS IN ZAIRE. THE GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA MUST BEAR A HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DEADLY ATTACK WHICH WAS LAUNCHED FROM ITS TERRITORY, AND IT'S A BURDEN AND A RESPONSIBILITY SHARED BY CUBA.

WE BELIEVE THAT CUBA HAD KNOWN OF THE KATANGAN PLANS TO INVADE AND OBVIOUSLY DID NOTHING TO RESTRAIN THEM FROM CROSSING THE BORDER. WE ALSO KNOW THAT THE CUBANS HAVE PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN TRAINING AND EQUIPPING THE KATANGANS WHO ATTACKED.

#### 4. REVIEW OF LEGISLATION

OUR ACTION TO SUPPORT THE RESCUE EFFORTS IN ZAIRE WAS UNCLASSIFIED

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TAKEN PURSUANT TO PRESENT LAW AND UNDER MY CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS AND DUTIES AS COMMANDER IN CHIEF. HOWEVER, THE TRAGEDY IN ZAIRE AS WELL AS OTHER RECENT DEVELOPMENTS HAS CAUSED ME TO REFLECT ON THE ABILITY OF OUR GOVERNMENT, WITHOUT BECOMING INVOLVED IN COMBAT, TO ACT PROMPTLY AND DECISIVELY TO HELP COUNTRIES WHOSE SECURITY IS THREATENED BY EXTERNAL FORCES.

OUR MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS ARE ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT MEANS OF ASSISTING OUR FRIENDS. SOME OF THE LEGISLATION GOVERNING THESE FOREIGN AID PROGRAMS HAS THE EFFECT OF PLACING VERY NARROW LIMITS ON WHERE AND WHEN THEY CAN BE USED. SOME OF THESE LIMITATIONS, THOUGH THEY WERE ENACTED MANY YEARS AGO AND UNDER SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES, CONTINUE TO BE ENTIRELY APPROPRIATE AND ADVISEABLE TODAY. OTHERS MAY BE OUTMODED. FOR THAT REASON I HAVE CONCLUDED THAT WE SHOULD REVIEW THE FULL RANGE OF LEGISLATION WHICH NOW GOVERNS THE OPERATION OF THESE PROGRAMS.

I'VE ASKED THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO CONDUCT THIS

REVIEW AND TO CONSULT WITH CONGRESS CONSTANTLY IN PREPARING THIS STUDY FOR ME. WE WANT TO TAKE A CAREFUL LOOK AT WHETHER OUR LEGISLATION AND PROCEDURES ARE FULLY RESPONSIVE TO THE CHALLENGES THAT WE FACE TODAY.

5. CLARK AMENDMENT

I WILL MEET WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP MYSELF IN THE NEAR FUTURE SO THAT WE CAN REACH A JOINT DECISION ON THE APPROPRIATE STEPS TO BE TAKEN.

AS FOR THE CLARK AMENDMENT WHICH PROHIBITS ACTION IN REGARD TO ANGOLA, I HAVE NO PRESENT INTENTION OF UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

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SEEKING ITS MODIFICATION NOR THAT OF ANY OTHER SPECIAL PIECE OF LEGISLATION. ANY PROPOSALS FOR MODIFICATIONS WILL AWAIT OUR REVIEW OF ALL RESTRICTIONS AND CONSULTATIONS WITH THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF THE CONGRESS.

IN THE MEANTIME, THE EXISTING PROVISIONS OF LAW WILL, OF COURSE, BE FAITHFULLY OBSERVED BY ME. BUT ALSO IN THE MEANTIME WE MUST RESIST FURTHER RESTRICTIONS BEING ATTACHED TO LEGISLATION NOW BEFORE THE CONGRESS.

6. OPPOSITION TO FURTHER CURBS

AS WE CONSIDER NEW LEGISLATION, IT IS VITAL THAT WE RECOGNIZE OUR NEED TO BE ABLE TO ADAPT TO RAPIDLY CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES. THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION NOW PENDING IN CONGRESS CONTAINS SEVERAL PROPOSED RESTRICTIONS ON PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORITY IN ECONOMIC AND MILITARY AID PROGRAMS.

WHILE I'M PREPARED TO REPORT TO CONGRESS AND TO REMAIN FULLY ACCOUNTABLE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, I WILL OPPOSE FURTHER RESTRICTIONS. I DO SO NOT NECESSARILY BECAUSE I INTEND TO EXERCISE MY AUTHORITY IN THE AREAS IN QUESTION, BUT TO PRESERVE PRESIDENTIAL CAPACITY TO ACT IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST IN A TIME OF RAPIDLY CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES. I BELIEVE THAT THE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL SUPPORT THIS POSITION. VANCE

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ORIGIN ARA-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

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DRAFTED BY: ARA/CCA-WSSMITH

APPROVED BY: ARA/CAA-WSSMITH

-----018623 311120Z /12

R 310547Z MAY 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT HAVANA

UNCLAS STATE 135043

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 135043 ACTION LUSAKA AND PRETORIA INFO  
ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS DATED MAY 26, 1978.

QUOTE: UNCLAS STATE 135043

FOR AMBASSADOR MCHENRY

E.O. 11652: N/A

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, TEXT, PRESS CONFERENCES  
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**Draft Date:** 26 may 1978  
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**TAGS:** PDEV, SOPN, XA, US, (CARTER, JIMMY)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014